

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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Between three and four hundred persons visited the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island this fall to pick beach plums and rake cranberries on the refuge property under free use permits issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service, John Pearce, Regional Director of the Service, said today.

According to a report submitted by Refuge Manager Watson Beed, more than 100 such permits have been issued this fall by his office at 65 State Street, Newburyport. Since each permit is issued in the name of the holder "and party" the number of persons actually harvesting these wild fruits is several times the number of permits.

The system of issuing permits has been adopted to prevent commercialization of this natural resource and to give more persons an opportunity to share in the crop, Mr. Pearce said.

Reports from the Refuge staff and from local residents indicate that while cranberries are fairly abundant, the beach plum crop has been poor. Experiments are being undertaken to improve the yield of plums, according to Mr. Pearce.

Picking of beach plums begins about the middle of August, and the first cranberries usually are raked the middle of September. The season for harvesting both fruits ends with the first frosts.

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